

PEKING SCORNS MIKADO'S TERMS IN 1915 TREATY

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APPEAL SENT TO PARIS—INDEPENDENCE IS THREATENED, SAYS STATEMENT—PRUSSIAN METHODS CITED

PARIS, April 5.—Nullification of the twenty-one demands made by Japan early in 1915 is urged by the Chinese government in an official statement cabled from Peking and received by the Japanese peace delegation today.

The Peking statement declares that the Japanese treaties and terms forced upon China in 1915 should be abrogated "because their terms are incompatible with the principles upon which the League of Nations is founded."

Statement Is Reply to Stand of Baron Makino

The statement is largely in reply to a recent pronouncement made by Baron Makino of the Japanese delegation on the position of Japan.

The Chinese statement says:

"Since the Japanese delegate in Paris has pointedly referred to the twenty-one demands, it is incumbent upon the Chinese Government to draw attention to the fact that China's acquiescence to terms subversive to her own interests were secured by means of an ultimatum to which she was forced to surrender because of the pre-occupation of the rest of the world in the European war. It is a fact the terms were imposed upon China at the point of the bayonet, the example followed being that of Prussia; the extension of ninety-nine years of the lease of Port Arthur and South Manchurian railways concessions being precisely the German Shantung terms."

Agreement Endangers China's Independence

"In a subsequent agreement secured by Japan under the former cabinet, the principles followed have been equally dangerous, not only to China's liberty of action, but to her very independence."

The statement says that the claim of Japan to special privileges because the Japanese expelled the German from Shantung contrasts oddly with the failure of the Americans to claim the railways and mines of France, although the Germans were expelled from Alsace and Lorraine by the co-operation of the American army.

It says that the American army of 2,000,000 lost more than sixty times the number of lives that Japan claims she lost at Tsing-Tao.

England Asks Nothing for Army of Dead

The statement also comments on the fact that England is not asking Belgium for a single concession, although Flanders "is one vast cemetery where English soldiers are buried."

Improved modern news distribution in China, the statement continues, keeps the Chinese fully advised of daily happenings throughout the world, and "irredentism is already raising its head, not only in Korea, but throughout Manchuria and Shantung as well, foreign issues occupying almost exclusive attention, to the detriment of domestic advancement."

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